

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a mailpiece comprising:  
  
receiving a mailpiece that includes representative data on a region of the mailpiece, the representative data being in machine-readable format;  
  
obtaining image data of the mailpiece;  
  
transmitting at least a portion of the image data to a storage location for subsequent use in tracking the mailpiece;  
  
calculating postage data as a function of the representative data;  
  
printing an indicia on the mailpiece that represents the postage data;  
  
generating a control signal as a function of the representative data; and  
  
modifying operation of a mailing machine as a function of the control signal.
2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the modifying operation of a mailing machine step includes temporarily pausing operation of the mailing machine.
3. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the representative data includes a barcode.
4. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the representative data is encoded.
5. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the representative data is encrypted.
6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the representative data uniquely identifies the a particular mailpiece.
7. Cancelled.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein calculating postage data further comprises~~comprising~~:

adding a surcharge to a postage amount for the mailpiece to account for additional services specified for the mailpiece in the representative data~~calculating adjusted postage data that represents an adjusted postage amount.~~

Claims 9-12. Cancelled.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a mailpiece that has representative data on a region of the mailpiece, the representative data being in machine-readable format;

means for obtaining image data of the mailpiece;

means for transmitting at least a portion of the image data to a storage location for subsequent use in tracking the mailpiece;

means for calculating postage data as a function of the representative data;

means for printing an indicia on the mailpiece that represents the postage data;

means for generating a control signal as a function of the representative data; and

means for modifying operation of a mailing machine as a function of the control signal.

14. Cancelled.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the means for calculating postage data further comprises~~comprising~~:

means for adding a surcharge to a postage amount for the mailpiece to account for additional services specified for the mailpiece in the representative data~~calculating adjusted postage data that represents an adjusted postage amount.~~

Claims 16-19. Cancelled.

20. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the means for modifying includes means for temporarily pausing operation of the mailing machine.

21. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the representative data includes a barcode.

22. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the representative data is encoded.

23. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the representative data is encrypted.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the representative data uniquely identifies the ~~a particular~~ mailpiece.

Claims 25-30. Cancelled.